

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

5401 White Hall Road • Cambridge, Maryland 21613 • 410-228-4640



February 2011



February Worship Schedule

Sunday mornings - the heart of our life together

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages.

10:00 a.m. All ages gather for worship in the Sanctuary, Pastor Anne preaching.

10:15 a.m. 2nd and 5th Sundays – Children's Church.

11:00 a.m. Fellowship time with refreshments.

February 6 ~ 5th Sunday in Epiphany.

We will gather to celebrate Holy Communion and consider Jesus teaching that we be both "salt" and "light" to the world. What might this look like in our 21st century, here at Immanuel Church and in our individual lives? Our texts include Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 112:1-9, and Matthew 5:13-20.

February 13 ~ 6th Sunday in Epiphany.

Pastor Anne will be away on bereavement leave this weekend, attending her aunt's funeral in Texas. She will leave a sermon which will be read by our Spiritual Council as they lead us in worship. Scripture passages include Psalm 119:1-8 and Moses' farewell words on choosing between life-giving and death-inducing ways of life (Deuteronomy 30:15-20). Jesus' teachings in Matthew 5:21-37 challenge us to make decisions about anger, lust, marriage and swearing that truly "choose life."

February 20 ~ 7th Sunday in Epiphany.

"To err is only human" and "nobody's perfect," we are found of saying. And who wants to be considered "holier than thou?" But today's texts invite us to consider the Biblical call to both perfection and holiness. "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy," wrote the author of Leviticus 19:1-18 in our Hebrew scriptures for this Sunday. "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect," Jesus admonished his disciples in Matthew 5:38-48. What is God asking of us here?

February 27 ~ 8th Sunday in Epiphany.

We will have a guest minister leading worship this Sunday, as Pastor Anne will be on vacation with her husband (February 23 – March 4).

From the Interim Pastor

The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis

On behalf of the Interim Team and myself, I want to thank all of you who participated in exploring Immanuel Church history on Discovery Sunday January 23. As you all poured out of the Sanctuary after our condensed worship service, and gathered in the Narthex to continue our process, I was overwhelmed to see so many of you! Over 80 of you joined in the small group sharing time in Fellowship Hall, speaking openly of both the delights and difficulties you have experienced here at Immanuel through the years. The room was a-buzz as sticky-notes filled the 1889-2011 timeline along the wall, and people poured through scrapbook photos and shared experiences. Many thanks go to the Interim Team, including Bill Bair, Susan Collins, Pat Creighton, Debbie Robbins, Roger Segar and Joyce Wise, who helped lead worship, set up the room and guided the small groups.

In worship and group discussion on that day, we used St. Paul's teaching that "all things work together for good for those who love God," found in Romans 8. It is always a challenge to understand how God uses sad times and tragedy to "work together for good." In sharing the blessings and the challenges of Immanuel Church history on Discovery Sunday, a number of you spoke openly about the shocking and painful crisis when your pastor was arrested for sexual misconduct in the late 1980's. One of the ways that God's healing power has worked such difficulties for good, is in the establishment of abuse prevention policies by many denominations.

Faith communities around the country, including many United Church of Christ congregations, have established a "Safe Church" policy to ensure that their congregation is the safe and sacred place it is intended to be. This nation-wide effort by the UCC was started in response to a growing awareness in the 1980's of instances of clergy, as well as church volunteer, sexual misconduct in some of its churches.

UCC clergy and pastoral interns now go through a UCC-mandated criminal background check as they search for each new position. A Safe Church policy can also require all volunteers and staff who regularly work with children to submit a self-disclosure document and undergo a limited criminal background check. A Safe Church policy would and can provide guidelines for supervision of children's and youth activities, as well as provide for procedures to deal with allegations of misconduct.

Deciding to take steps to prevent child and other abuse is an important part in making any church a true sanctuary of hope, refuge and safety. Such a policy here at Immanuel Church would set certain standards for hiring of both staff and volunteers in order to minimize the possibility of abuse.

At it's January meeting, the Church Council appointed a time-limited Task Force to draft a "Safe Church" policy, which will be reviewed by the Council and brought to the congregation for a vote some time this Spring. Jock Luthy and Scott Dodson, from the Church Council, have joined Leslie Tolley, from the Christian Education Board, and Pastor Anne to draft the proposed policy. Leslie has worked extensively with such policies in the public school system and will be guiding the work of this Task Force. **The Task Force will hold an informal information session on February 22 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.** Dessert and coffee will be included. They hope you will attend and come with your questions, concerns and comments.

In ministry with you,

Anne

Immanuel United Church of Christ
e-mail: immanuelucc@bcctv.net
Website: immanuelucc.com
Church office phone 410-228-4640
Parsonage phone: 410-221-0436

The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis, Interim Pastor
Janice Haller, Church Office Secretary
J. Curtis White, Choir Director/Organist
Lynne Breil, Pianist
Lisa Dixon, Custodian

President's Message

The word that best suits the year 2010 would be "change". The year started with Joan Evans, who retired after 13 years, which left a big void after her many years of leadership. Then we had a couple months of supply ministers before our interim minister, The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis arrived. I think that most members realize the wonderful job done by the Spiritual Council and the church secretary to get us through this change.

Even though we had a lot of change, the giving by members has remained steady. In the past, when we had a changeover, our giving seemed to do down and then build back up. A big help to our budget has been our many fund raising events and the rent received for use of the fellowship hall and sanctuary.

One thing that has helped the Sunday service is the job Curtis White has done by being both choir director and organist. This could not have happened without the assistance of Lynne Breil as pianist.

I would like to thank the members of the council who have fulfilled their terms of service. They are: Chuck Hanson, Lou Jones, Joyce Wise and Jim Creighton, who consented on election to serve for one year. The council in 2010 was easy to work with and I think they did an excellent job. I look forward to working with the new council in 2011.

All church's go through a period of adjustment after such a long period of service by a minister. Although Pastor Swallow Gillis is different than Pastor Evans, those who have attended worship services or had other occasions to meet with her, find that she is both caring and well versed in the functions of our church. I believe that we have the right person in Pastor Anne to guide us through these two years of change. I would be remiss if I did not recognize Bill Bair and the members of our Interim Search Committee for the excellent job they did during this entire process.

With the help of God and our many faithful church members, I believe 2011 will be a good year for Immanuel United Church of Christ.

Philip Jackson
President

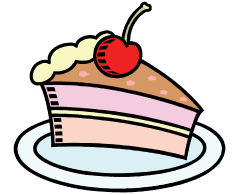


(back row) Dennis Katulis and John Moore, (front row) C.R. Newman, Philip Jackson and Carole Segar, at the New Council Members orientation meeting.

Let's Have A TERRIFIC DINNER at Immanuel

Invite all your friends and relatives,
visitors too!

Saturday, February 5 - 4:00 p.m. - til
Chicken & Dumpling Dinner



Desserts extra - carry out available

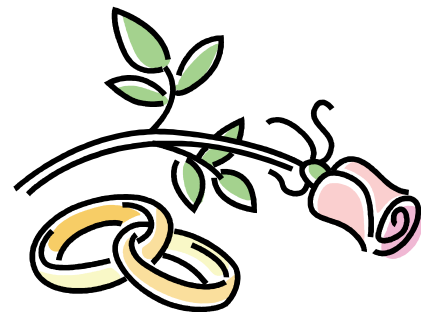
* * * * *

Member February Birthday Wishes go to:

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Aaron Collins | 2/1 |
| Cheryl Tomey | 2/3 |
| Mary Clay | 2/6 |
| George Barnett | 2/7 |
| Taylor Middleton | 2/7 |
| Kyle Murphy Jackson | 2/7 |
| Chad Malkus | 2/11 |
| Mitchell McDonald | 2/11 |
| Jonathan Bounds | 2/12 |
| Alexia Caroline Bair | 2/15 |
| Jimmy Creighton | 2/15 |
| Jean Foxwell | 2/16 |
| Merilyn Cusick | 2/16 |
| Meg Windsor | 2/23 |
| Dennis Jones | 2/28 |

Congratulations to those celebrating a
February Anniversary:

Julie & Michael Jones 2/6



* * * * *

LENTEN LUNCH

GRACE UMC (501 Race Street) will host a series of Lenten Lunches for 5 Tuesdays starting March 15th, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to participate. A 20-minute devotion followed by a "soup and sandwich" lunch fills the hour.

AN INVITATION TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

If you go to this website: www.LetsSayThanks.com you can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a soldier that is currently serving in Iraq. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to a member of the armed services.

How AMAZING it would be if we could get everyone we know to send one!!! It's FREE and it only takes a second. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the soldiers received a bunch of these? Whether you are for or against the war, our soldiers over there need to know we are behind them. It only takes 10 seconds and it's a wonderful way to say thank you. Please take the time and please take the time to pass it on for others to do. We can never say thank you enough.
(Submitted by Suzy Katulsi)

* * * * *

CHOIR NOTES

Perhaps you have noticed the new, deep burgundy choir robes that grace our singers each Sunday morning. Our choir has grown in the last few months, with 12-15 people participating each Sunday under Curtis White's inspiring direction. Additional robes were sorely needed and the choir agreed that new robes should be purchased all around so the color match would be correct. Many thanks go to Milton Malkus, Jr., who designated that memorial funds for his wife, Martha, be used for this purpose. Martha is fondly remembered among us for having served as Church Organist for over 60 years.

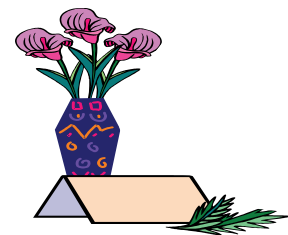


* * * * *

MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Looking ahead to 2011, the Mission Committee wants to plan ahead for keeping with the UCC's "5 for 5" giving. The 5 funds are:

- Our Church's Wider Mission (all year)
- One Great Hour of Sharing (Lent season)
- Strengthen The Church (early summer)
- Neighbors In Need (fall)
- Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross) (winter)



The local Cold Weather Shelter is busy, helping 20+ people every night, and thanks to Frank Spillman, Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis, and other volunteers, we are helping to serve hot meals on a rotation with other churches in the community. Last Thursday, 1/20, Pastor Anne received a call that the organization who was due to provide the meal didn't come, and she was able to rush over and provide for them thanks to food prepared ahead and frozen. The guests loved the venison chili!

We have hit the ground running with helping our community! In January, we helped 25 persons/families with appx \$1,300 (which is more than the usual \$1,000/month we try to stay around, including our \$150 to the Salvation Army for Share Packages). These Individuals who come to us have already been carefully screened by Social Services. We also have a limit of \$100.00 per calendar year per person.

REQUEST FROM CHANCEL COMMITTEE

Do you like to arrange flowers--do you have garden flowers, in season, you'd like to share with the congregation--do you have a special date (birthday, anniversary, memorial remembrance, etc.) you'd like to mark with flowers in the sanctuary? If so, please call Helen Krom, 410-228-8085, coordinator. Also, at present, September and November remain unassigned.

* * * * *

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PRAYER BREAKFAST! Wednesday, February 9th

Immanuel United Church of Christ has been chosen to host the annual Habitat for Humanity Prayer Breakfast for Dorchester County,
Wednesday morning from 8:30-9:30 am in our Fellowship Hall.
No RSVP needed; just come and enjoy the breakfast!

You will learn more about the work of this growing organization which, since its inception in 1992, has empowered 49 working families in Dorchester and Talbot Counties to become homeowners. Each Habitat home is a result of a unique partnership among a deserving family, dedicated volunteers, and inspired donors. Come learn more about how Habitat makes possible the act of people helping people to help themselves. Plans are underway, through our Missions Committee, for an Immanuel Church workday at one of the Dorchester building sites. All kinds of help will be needed, from builders to unskilled helpers to food providers (to feed the crew!). Contact Missions' Chair, Robin Moore, or the church office, for more information.